

# Do students prefer smaller classes to large lectures?

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# Problem

- ❖ How do the differences between smaller and larger classes affect students?
- ❖ Which size do they prefer?



Students and their notebooks at The Missouri School of Journalism

# Background

- ❖ Introduce: Auburn University changes from quarter classes to semester classes, resulting in larger class sizes
- ❖ Insert: Analyzed how the transition affected students and their grades in classes.
- ❖ Interpret: Smaller class sizes are better in: problem solving, critical thinking, long term retention, student discussion, student information sharing.
- ❖ Interpret: “The increase in class size, therefore, could have a detrimental effect on student performance in these courses and, consequently, on the quality of the graduates.” (Killingsworth, 2000, p. 2)



# Background

- ❖ SAGE (Student Achievement Guarantee in Education)
- ❖ STAR (Student/Teacher Assessment Ratio)
- ❖ FCE (Federal College of Education)- smaller class sizes resulted in closer student and teacher interaction.



# Method

- ❖ 1. Why did you decide to come to college?
- ❖ 2. What made you pick Bloomsburg?
- ❖ 3. How did you choose your major?
- ❖ 4. What is the best part about lecture halls?
- ❖ 5. What is the worst part about lecture halls?
- ❖ 6. Do you prefer lecture halls or smaller classes?

# Findings

- ❖ 1. Better career opportunities
- ❖ 2. Campus setting, programs offered
- ❖ 3. Look forward to doing that kind of work

# Findings

- ❖ 4. Lots of people to meet
- ❖ 5. Connection with professors
- ❖ 6. Smaller classes



# Conclusion

- ❖ Smaller classes over larger classes
- ❖ Academically:
  - ❖ Higher results in exams
  - ❖ Better student-teacher interaction
- ❖ Personally:
  - ❖ Students prefer to have smaller classes
  - ❖ Teachers find it more manageable





# References

- ❖ Fan, F. A. (2012). Class Size: Effects on Students' Academic Achievements and Some Remedial Measures. *Research In Education*, 87(1), 95-98. doi: 10.7227/RIE.87.1.7
- ❖ Killingsworth, R., McCurry, N., & Hastie, P. (2006). The Effect of Class Size on Course and Curriculum Level Performance for Construction Students. *International Journal Of Learning*, 13(2), 125-129.